Meeting of M.Ps. to consider Maharashtra-Karnataka Border issue

99. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 576 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July 1991 and state:

(a) whether proposed meeting of the Members of Parliament from Maharashtra and Karnataka was called by Government and if so, with what results; and

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken to find solution to this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) As stated in the reply under reference it was the Chief Minister, Maharashtra who proposed to arrange a meeting with the State Members of Parliament on the Maharashtra-Karnataka border issue. The Government of India has not been apprised of any further development in the matter.

(b) The Government of India continues to hold the view that the problem is to be primarily settled by the two States by mutual consultation and that there is no need for Central Government to intervene in this matter at this stage.

Driverless Goods Train

100. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a goods train travelled without a driver at 70 K.M. per hour for 150 kms between Rekhni and Peddarpet stations on the South Central Railway recently as reported in Hindustan Times dated 27th October, 1991;

(b) if so what is the outcome of the inquiry, if any, conducted by Government into the incident; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) A goods train travelled about 31 kms without the driving crew in the engine between Rechni Road and Bellmpalli stations on South Central Railway on 25-10-1991.

(b) and (c) An inquiry by a Committee of Senior Officers has been conducted and action under Discipline and Appeal Rules initiated against the staff held responsible. The Railways have launched an intensive campaign to counsel drivers on the safe handling of locomotives.

Production of Fire-wood

101. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is likely to face a firewood crisis by 2000 AD due to decreasing production tempo of fire-wood from forest areas; and

(b) if so, what are the steps being taken to meet this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) At the current rate of population increase, there is likely to be a large gap between production and demand of firewood by 2000 A.D.

(b) The Government of India have taken following steps:

(1) A massive afforestation programme is under operation under 20 Point Programme, and during

the 7th Five Year Plan period alone, afforestation over 8.8 million hectares has been carried out.

(2) Fuelwood saving devices such as fuel efficient chullahs, Vanjyoti and improved crematoria are being encouraged by providing subsidies financial incentives.

(3) Financial incentives|subsidies are also being provided to encourage and popularise the use of bio-gas, solar cookers, electric crematoria etc.

Exchange of Arrested Militants for release of Hostages

102. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the whole policy of exchanging arrested militants for hostages in the wake of increasing incidents of kidnapping;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the militants have now started kidnapping VIPs|High level Government officials and asking for release of arrested terrorists etc; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (d) Kidnappings by terrorist groups for ransom or securing release of arrested associates and cadres have increased recently, which is causing cocern. This trend is noticeable in respect of all the terrorists movements in the country. It has, therefore, been considered necessary to evolve a comprehensive strategy to deal with the problem. The proposal includes a package of measures incorporating elements of the overall policy to be followed, matters relating to media and public opinion, amendment of certain laws and operational matters.

पंजाब में लोक सभा और विधान सभा के चुनावों में उम्मीदवार की सुरक्षा

103. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :

क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पंजाब में कानून और व्यवस्था की समस्या के कारण वहां विगत महीनों में लोक सभा और विधान सभा के चुनाव स्थगित कर दिए गए थे ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि कई उम्मीदवारों, जिन्होंने चुनाव के लिए नामांकन पत्र दायर किये थे, की हत्या कर दी गई थी ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो लोक सभा और विधान सभा के चुनावों के लिए खड़े कितने उम्मीदवारों की हत्या की गई थी ; और

(घ) क्या यह सच है कि प्रशासन ने इन दिनों में इन लोगों की सुरक्षा की जिम्मेदारी विशेष तौर से अपने हाथ में ली थी और यदि हां, तो इस जिम्मेदारी के निर्वहन में क्या-क्या कमियां पाई गई हैं और इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा क्या उपचारात्मक कदम उठाए गए हैं ?

संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम० एम० जैकब) : (क) और (ख) जी हां, श्रीमान ।

(ग) उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार, लोक सभा के 3 उम्मीदवार और विधान सभा के 24 उम्मीदवार मारे गए ।

(घ) उन सभी व्यक्तियों को सुरक्षा उपलब्ध कराई गई जिन्होंने इसे लेना स्वीकार किया । कुछ उम्मीदवार जो मारे गए, उन्होंने सुरक्षा लेने से इंकार किया था । एजेंसियों से सुरक्षा व्यवस्था सुदृढ़ करने को कहा गया है ।